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# MATERIALS FOR UNION.

Proposed to  
Publick Consideration,

With Indifferency  
To All Parties.

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By—M. A. Pem. Col. Oxon.

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*Let Your Moderation be known unto all  
Men. The Lord is at hand.*

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## Materials FOR Union.

**W**Hereas there are Three Parties of **Protestants** in the Nation, the *Episcopalian*, the *Presbyterian*, and the *Independent* (or *Congregational*) Men, which are of diverse sorts) who do, and will ever differ in their Opinions about the *Church*, and *Discipline* of it, in the Question, which is of Christ's Institution; or, Whether the One, or the Other, is most consonant to Scripture: it is not our Disputes about the Church as *Particular* (which are rather to be mutually forborn, and every Party left herein to their own Persuasion) but a Common Agreement in what we Can Agree; and that is in the Church as *National*, must Heal our Divisions.

It is here we must lay the Foundation-Stone of *Union*.

When the Parliament then shall set about This Business to purpose, A Bill should be brought in for *Declaring* the *Constitution* of Our **Church of England**.

A Parliament is the Representative of the whole People of *England*, and I doubt not, but by Consent and Agreement, they might *Make* a *New Constitution* of the CHURCH, as it is *National*; and much more may they *Declare* the *Constitution* of it.

The Papists are for one Universal Organical Church throughout the world, whereof the Pope is Head by Christ's Appointment; and whosoever consequently is not of this *Roman Catholick-Church*, and Governed by him, must be Damn'd. There are some of our late Prelatists are for the same Church, but under the Diocesan Bishops of the whole Earth, who being Convened in a *General Council*, are the *Head* that must give Laws to it; and whosoever refuse to be Govern'd by the Laws of these General Councils, are *Schismatics*. I am much rather therefore, in my mind, for the Notion (which is that in the Embryo the Reverend Dean of *St. Pauls* seems to me to aim at, if it could be once well formed) of an *Independent National Church* Political, but not to be held, as the Congregationalist supposes his *Particular Independent*

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dent *One*, and They their Catholick, to be of *Divine*, but of *Humane Institution*; for it is manifestly a thing *Accidental* to the Church of Christ, that the Supreme Magistrate, and the whole Body of a Nation, are Christian.

It should be declared then in such a Bill or Act of Parliament, that the Church of *England* consists of the KING as the Head, and all the several Assemblies of the Protestants as the Body.

A Discrimination between the *Tolerable* and *Intolerable*, is never to be gain-said by any Wise Man.

It is not for me, or any *One* person, but a *Convocation*, or *Parliament*, to prescribe the Terms of *National Communion*; but I would have all our *Assemblies* that are *Tolerable*, to be made *Legal* by such an *Act*, and thereby parts of the *National Church*, as well as the *Parochial Congregations*.

That the Bishops should be declared Ecclesiastical Officers under the KING, acting *Circa Sacra* only, by Vertue of *His* Authority and Commission.

As *Jehoshaphat* appointed Officers for Government in the *Matters of God*, and the *Kings Matters*: So should the *Bishops* be in Our *Ecclesiastical*, as the *Judges* are in *Civil Matters*, the Substitutes of His Majesty, and Execute *His* Jurisdiction.

Upon

Upon this Account, if any of the Eminent among the Non-conformists were Chosen to be Bishops, they could not refuse it.

Let Dr. *Owen* and Mr. *Baxter* be the Two next that are called to this Function upon such an Act, and commanded to Hold it, and then would UNION indeed Commence.

Their Work in general, should be to Supervise the Churches of both sorts in their Diocesses, that they all Walk according to their own Order, agreeably to the Gospel, and the Peace of one another.

I am sensible unto what Distress a Congregational Minister may be brought in the exercise of Discipline over some potent, turbulent, and refractory Members; and what Relief he might find in such an External Ecclesiastical Officer as this.

This shall *Advance*, and not *Lessen*, the outward Power and Honour of the *Bishops*.

I humbly Motion a *Third* Clerk for the Convocation, to be added to the *Two* in every Diocese, and chose out of the Non-conformists for the Unanimous prosecution of Holiness and Concord throughout all the Churches: And the two Provinces of *Canterbury* and *York* should Unite in this *Convocation*, for the making them one Na-

tional

tional Church, and not two *Provincial* ones in a di-  
verse Assembly.

I should expect then such Canons to be made,  
as would render us all happy in the satisfaction  
of both Parties.

An Act of Parliament to this purpose, would  
make the Church of *England* to be in Earnest, such  
a Church, as the Church-men would have us still  
think it, the *Best Constituted*, the most *Exemplary*,  
and the most *Glorious* of any that is, or indeed,  
that well can be in this World.

And thus I have offered my Mite to the *Sanctu-  
ary*; that is, so much as I have, and what I think  
fit for Cultivation by Others, whom GOD shall  
make Wise-hearted, and Concern'd, for the Wel-  
fare of *Syon*.

There is Room also here left for the far-  
ther Invention of Such, in regard to many the like  
things as these: For they that will, may see some-  
thing more in a few Sheets, in *part* Entitled,  
*Animadversions upon the Debate between Dr. Stillings-  
fleet and Mr. Baxter, Concerning the National Church,  
and Head of it.* Unto which this Paper may be  
Stitched.

THE END.